

1. (currently amended): A process of flocculating and dewatering an aqueous suspension of suspended solids comprising, introducing into the suspension-comprising-as an aqueous composition comprising,

(a) a concentrated aqueous polymeric flocculant solution having a concentration above about 0.3% by weight

and[[,.]]

(b) a dilute aqueous polymeric flocculant solution having a concentration below about 0.3% by weight,

characterised in that the concentrated and dilute polymeric flocculant solutions are introduced into the suspension substantially simultaneously and the dilute solution and concentrated solution exist as substantially discrete components of a non-homogeneous composition, to flocculate said suspended solids, and dewatering said aqueous suspension.

2. (cancelled):

3. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the aqueous composition comprises,

(a) 1 to 80%, by weight of the concentrated aqueous solution of polymeric flocculant and,

(b) 20 to 99%, by weight of the dilute aqueous solution of polymeric flocculant.

4. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the aqueous composition comprises,

(a) 1 to 40%, by weight of the concentrated aqueous solution of polymeric flocculant and,

(b) 60 to 99%, by weight of the dilute aqueous solution of polymeric flocculant.

5. (cancelled).

6. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the dilute aqueous polymeric flocculant solution comprises a cationic polymer, an anionic polymer or a nonionic polymer.

7. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the concentrated aqueous polymeric flocculant solution has a concentration of polymeric flocculant of between 0.4 and 1.0%, by weight.

8. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 in which the concentrated aqueous polymeric flocculant solution comprises a cationic polymer, an anionic polymer or a nonionic polymer.

9. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the polymeric flocculant dissolved in the concentrated solution is either co-ionic with the polymeric flocculant dissolved in the dilute solution or non-ionic.

10. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which polymeric flocculant dissolved in either the dilute solution or the concentrated solution is cationic and has been formed from a monomer or blend of monomers comprising at least one cationic monomer selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium and acid salts of dimethylaminoethyl (meth) acrylate, quaternary ammonium and acid salts of dimethylaminoethyl (meth) acrylamide and diallyldimethyl ammonium chloride.

11. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the polymeric flocculant dissolved in either the dilute solution or the concentrated solution is anionic and has been formed from a monomer or blend of monomers comprising at least one anionic monomer selected from the group consisting of (meth) acrylic acid, 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulphonic acid, alkali metal and ammonium salts thereof.

12. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the polymeric flocculant dissolved in either the dilute solution or the concentrated solution is nonionic and has been formed from acrylamide or methacrylamide.

13. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the polymeric flocculant dissolved in each of the dilute and concentrated aqueous solutions is a cationic copolymer of acrylamide and at least one cationic monomer selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium and acid salts of dimethylaminoethyl (meth) acrylate, quaternary ammonium and acid salts of dimethylaminoethyl (meth) acrylamide and diallyldimethyl ammonium chloride, having an intrinsic viscosity of at least 4 dl/g.

14. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the aqueous composition comprising the dilute aqueous solution of polymeric flocculant and the concentrated solution of

polymeric flocculant is formed by introducing the concentrated solution of polymeric flocculant into a flowing stream of the dilute aqueous solution of polymeric flocculant.

15. (previously presented): A process according to claim 14 in which the dilute aqueous solution of polymeric flocculant is formed by diluting a flowing stream of the concentrated aqueous solution of polymeric flocculant with dilution water.

16. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the aqueous composition is formed by,

(a) passing said concentrated solution of polymeric flocculant to a dilution where the solution is combined with dilution water to form a dilute solution,

(b) passing the diluted solution through a mixing stage, selected from pumping and screening stages, and

(c) introducing said concentrated solution of polymeric flocculant into the dilute aqueous solution to form said aqueous composition.

17. (previously presented): A process according to claim 16 in which the concentrated polymeric flocculant solution, which is diluted to form the dilute polymeric flocculant solution in step (a) is drawn from the same reservoir of concentrated polymeric flocculant solution introduced into the dilute solution in step (c).

18. (previously presented): A process according to claim 16 in which the concentrated solution of polymeric flocculant in step (a) is drawn from a different reservoir of concentrated polymeric flocculant solution introduced into the dilute solution in step (c).

19. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the dewatering process is selected from the group consisting of dewatering sewage sludge, dewatering a mineral suspension, dewatering a paper mill sludge, dewatering a deinked cellulosic sludge and a papermaking process.